Listing and Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces any prior revisions or listing of claims in this application.

1.   (currently amended) A method for searching a database on a disk storage medium, comprising

-    ~~execution of~~ executing with a processor a first search step, the first search step including reading-in disk sectors of the disk storage medium and searching database records stored in said disk sectors read-in, wherein the searching is performed with a search depth matched to a speed of the reading-in of disk sectors such that the reading-in of disk sectors is not interrupted,

-    ~~provision of~~ providing an intermediate result from the first search step,

-    ~~execution of~~ executing with the processor a second search step in the intermediate result from the first search step, wherein executing the second search uses a computational power of the processor which is remaining from executing the first search step, and

-    ~~provision of~~ providing an end result from the second search step.

2.   (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the processing speed ~~for the data~~ in the first search step is at least as high as the read-in speed ~~for the data~~.

3.   (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein only a text search is performed in the first search step.

4.   (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first search step involves skipping to search locations from an index list in descending or ascending order on the basis of sorting exclusively according to sector numbers of the disk sectors.

5.   (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the intermediate result comprises one or more subresults which are respectively

searched in the second search step.

6.   (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the
database is dynamic and is available in fragmented form and in this context
the individual fragments are read in successively and a read head skips
exclusively in one direction between the fragments.

7.   (currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ data are
stored on the disk storage medium in ECC blocks.

8.   (previously presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the disk
storage medium is an optical disk.

9.   (currently amended) An apparatus for searching a database on a disk storage
medium, comprising
-    a ~~search device~~ <u>processor</u> for executing a first search step, the first
search step including reading-in disk sectors of the disk storage medium
and searching database records stored in said disk sectors read-in, wherein
the searching is performed with a search depth matched to a speed of the
reading-in of disk sectors such that the reading-in of disk sectors is not
interrupted, and
-    a memory device for storing and providing an intermediate result from
the first search step, where
-    the ~~search device~~ <u>processor</u> is also designed to execute a second search
step in the intermediate result from the first search step and to provide an
end result from the second search step<u>, wherein executing the second
search step uses a computational power of the processor which is
remaining from executing the first search step</u>.

10.   (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the
processing speed ~~for the data in the search device~~ in the first search step is at
least as high as the maximum or an instantaneous read-in speed ~~for the data
into the search device~~.

11.   (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein an exclusive text search can be performed in the ~~search device~~ processor during the first search step.

12.   (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the first search step may involve the ~~search device~~ processor skipping to search locations from an index list in descending or ascending order on the basis of sorting exclusively according to sector numbers of the disk sectors.

13.   (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the intermediate result which can be stored in the memory device comprises one or more subresults which can be searched by the ~~search device~~ processor in the second search step.

14.   (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the database is dynamic and is available in fragmented form and in this context the individual fragments can be read into the ~~search device~~ processor successively and a read head can skip exclusively in one direction between the fragments.

15.   (currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the ~~search device~~ processor and the memory device are suitable for processing ECC blocks.

16.   (previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the disk storage medium is an optical disk.

17.   (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second search steps are executed at least partly in parallel.

18.   (previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the second search step is executed with lower priority than the first search step.

19.   (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the first and second search steps are executed at least partly in parallel.

20.   (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the second search step is executed with lower priority than the first search step.